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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

GLADSTONE'S SCHOOL FOR WORLD CONQUERORS

Take a Gander at Gladstone's!

Ever wonder how supervillains learn their diabolical ways? Are these superpowered nasties just born bad, or did they have to be taught the proper methods of malevolence?

That's the question that *Mark Andrew Smith & Armand Villavert* are about to explore in ***Gladstone's School for World Conquerors***, a new series from Image Comics.

Smith explained the premise of the series. "Gladstone's School is a renowned institution that teaches the basics of villainy to the next generation of super-villains. The series follows the adventures of the newest class, which includes Kid Nefarious, Mummy Girl, Martian Jones, Ghost Girl, and the Skull brothers. As the series progresses, they unearth the School's — and their parents' — hidden past."

What is the villainous heritage of these young villains-in-training? "Kid Nefarious is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nefarious, who are some heavy hitters in the Gladstone's Universe," Smith said. "Kid N has big shoes to fill. Now he's getting by on his parents' credentials and the family name. He's going to have to stand on his own merits to earn his own way in the world. As the potential team leader, he's going to be tested.

"Mummy Girl is the daughter of Egyptian Gods. She can summon ancient Egyptian Magic and also has living Mummy Wraps that function as extra sets of arms. Mummy Girl is a force to be reckoned with in battle—a strong female character that can hold her own with the boys.

"Martian Jones is an alien and a science genius. He comes from a race obsessed with conquering, and he's a perfectionist and a teacher's pet. I'm looking forward to exploring the Martian culture in later issues and revealing more about Martian Jones and what motivates him.

"Ghost Girl is the daughter of two supernatural heavy hitters. She's from Korea and she likes her food spicy. She can get in and out of the most secure location undetected. She has great attacks in battle and she's a supernatural powerhouse.

OH, HOW I'VE LONGED FOR THIS DAY! THIS DAY THAT MAN--
AHEM!
CAN YOU TRY IT WITH JUST A BIT MOORE...
...BUSTO?
OKAY, BUTEL, I CAN DO THAT-
OH, HOW I'VE LONGED FOR THIS DAY!
AT LAST, I HAVE CONQUERED MY ENEMIES, AND THEY LAY BEFORE MY FEET LIKE DOGS!
OH, "DOGS," I SUPPOSE, YES, I LIKE THAT! VERY DESCRIPTIVE. GOOD.
THANKS. UM, I WAS GOING TO ASK SOMETHING ABOUT SUPERHEROES, FAILING, AND HIS CONQUERING--
NO, THAT WAS PLENTY FOR TODAY.
THE LAST PART WAS A HUGE IMPROVEMENT FROM LAST WEEK.
B+
NEXT, PLEASE!

"*Gladstone's* is a lot of fun, but at the same time mysterious and with a ton of action packed into each issue. With *Gladstone's*, we hit a full range of tones and moods throughout the story. There's something for everyone."

Gladstone's isn't the first series to focus on the children of super-villains—after all, Marvel's ***Runaways*** became a critical and popular success by mining a similar creative concept. But there's a big difference: while the protagonists of ***Runaways*** rejected their parents' villainous ways, the main characters of ***Gladstone's School for World Conquerors*** "are completely accepting of their parents to a fault," Smith explained. "They're born into villainy, and it's the most natural thing to them. They know no other way of life. There are some secrets that they'll discover in the series that are shocking and difficult for them. But family is the strongest bond for these characters, even more than friendship at times."

In a world where there's a special academy for malevolent matriculation, it's probably no surprise that the superhero-supervillain dynamic is a little bit more complex than in other superhero universes. "It's very complex," Smith said. "There's an armistice between supervillains and superheroes that has been reached, and under it both sides are prospering more than ever. There are those in the world of villains that cling hard to old ways and not all villains agree with the armistice. Many want to go back to the way things were before. There are villains and then there are *really* bad and dangerous villains. To keep the peace, the villains police their own—but not everyone is okay with this concept."

The series polished, animation-style artwork is supplied by *Armand Villavert*, who demonstrated his artistic prowess with his work on Boom's ***Muppet Robin Hood***. How'd he become involved with ***Gladstone's***?

"I teamed up with Armand after seeing his work and becoming a fan of ***Zap!***," Smith said. "For me, he was the perfect artist to tackle the world of ***Gladstone's***."

Smith is confident enough that readers will like what they see that he's avoiding the toes-in-the-water miniseries approach and diving into the ongoing series instead. "We've designed this as a monthly ongoing series," Smith said. "After all, we have an entire universe to explore with a vast range of characters! I think exploration of a unified world of villains is a very cool thing, and the students of ***Gladstone's*** are the perfect windows through which to view that world. Armand and I plan to do this for a *very* long time."

Gladstone's School for World Conquerors #1, a $2.99 comic, is scheduled for early May release. The second issue will follow in mid-June.

by Cliff Biggers

"The Skull Brothers are my favorite characters in the book. They're mysterious; we *never* see their faces. They grew up fast and they know the truth about Gladstone's. In the book, we're never sure what to expect from them, or know whose side they're really on. They're the perfect wildcards. I know I shouldn't pick favorites but these two are mine - hands down!"

While the idea of "supervillains: the next generation" could be developed in a number of ways, Smith knew from the very beginning that he wanted to avoid the "grim 'n' gritty" approach. "*Gladstone's* is fun and lighthearted. There's a bit of the classic superhero animation flair I grew up on, with a contemporary spin. The story builds issue after issue, weaving in Gladstone's rich back-story, and connecting it all together in an epic way.

"We're building our own universe with *Gladstone's*. We've created some engaging and memorable characters for the readers to get to know, with stories told from a unique perspective. ***Gladstone's School for World Conquerors*** is the perfect vantage point to view the larger world of villainy.

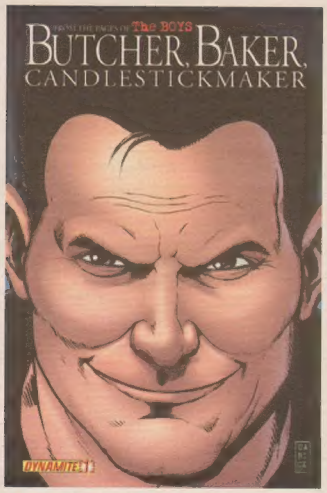
"This an ensemble cast book. There are several compelling characters in Gladstone's, and they *all* get their moments in the series. There's a huge detailed history with the students' parents that spans back thousands of generations. We put enough questions into each issue to keep readers coming back for more. The further they get into the series, the more they're going to be rewarded.

I ENVY YOU. YOU GET TO LIVE IN A FICTIONALIZED WORLD WHERE EVERYTHING IS SAFE AND MAKES PERFECT SENSE. A WORLD IN BLACK AND WHITE.
YOU ARE JUST CHILDREN AFTER ALL. YOU HAVEN'T HAD TO GROW UP FAST LIKE SKULL BROTHER TWO AND ME. THERE'S SO MUCH YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD AND HOW IT WORKS AND LET YOU GO BACK TO YOUR CHILDLIKE IGNORANCE AND BLISS. UNAWARE OF WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON OUTSIDE OF THIS SCHOOL...
BUT, THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THERE ARE DANGEROUS THINGS OUTSIDE OF GLADSTONE'S. YOU CHILDREN ARE BETTER OFF HERE IN YOUR LITTLE FANTASY PLAY WORLD SAFE FROM THE MONSTERS THAT LIVE OUT THERE.

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*



Meet the Butcher

This summer, ***Boys*** creators *Garth Ennis* and *Darick Robertson* reunite at long last for ***The Boys: Butcher, Baker, Candlestickmaker,*** a tale that reveals the origins of one of the most violent, anti-superhero characters in comics.

"This is the story I've been waiting to tell since the very beginning of ," Ennis said. "A good, long, disturbing look into the dark."

"This mini series is essential to the ***Boys*** legacy," Robertson added. "The script is one of *Garth Ennis*' finest, (personally my favorite since our work together on Marvel's ***Punisher: Born***). It answers a lot of questions about who Butcher is and why he is the way he is. It is heartbreaking, and yet has the kind of action and humor you'd expect from the two of us. If you're a fan of the series, this is the story you've been waiting for!"

"Garth and Darick have created a story so compelling, that it took 'til now to be able to offer to fans," Dynamite Publisher *Nick Barrucci* added. "The story is powerful and the art is incredible... This is ***the Boys*** series; if you have never read ***The Boys***, this is a great introduction to that world."

The Boys: Butcher, Baker, Candlestickmaker #1 is slated for mid-July release.

CSNsider

Astonishing Captain America #1, initially slated for May release, has been cancelled; the book will be resolicited at a later date.

•*Nick Spencer & Emma Rios* are working on a three-part ***Cloak and Dagger*** miniseries that links to the upcoming "Spider-Island" storyline in ***Amazing Spider-Man.***

•*Mark Millar* announced two new projects slated to appear from Marvel later this year: ***Hit Girl,*** a ***Kick Ass*** spinoff series by Millar & *John Romita Jr.*, and ***Supercrooks,*** a Millar/*Leinil Yu* project about superheroes and supervillains in Southern Europe. Millar is also reportedly working with *Frank Quitely* on a project for Image, and is also working with *Dave Gibbons* on an as-yet-unnamed project.

•***The Justice Machine,*** a superteam created thirty years ago by *Mike Gustovich,* makes it comic book return this summer, courtesy of writer *Mark Ellis,*artists *David Enebral & Mar Degano,* and Moonstone Comics. The first storyline finds the super-team caught in a nightmarish landscape of two realities in conflict. Look for the first issue in July.

•*Mark Poulton & Owen Gieni* relaunch *Rob Liefeld's* ***Avengelyne*** this summer "As with any of my creations, I try to marry the right creative team with a character—and after a long chat with *Mark Poulton,* I knew he was the writer for the gig," Liefeld said. "Mark has chronicled the adventures of a female lead in his ***Koni Waves*** series for the past several years, so he is a natural for ***Avengelyne.*** Artist Owen worked up the best samples I've ever seen. Both are ready to treat ***Avengelyne*** fans to amazing, daring and controversial new story lines."

"The appeal of the character for me wasn't the demons or the scary monsters she faced, but the fact that she was fighting for redemption," Poulton said. "She had fallen from grace and was paying for her sins. She's flawed. When you combine that aspect of the character with the demons, scary monsters, and supernatural world she lives in the possibilities for stories are endless."

Avengelyne #1 is slated for July release.

•Bluewater's ***Mark Zuckerberg: Creator of Facebook*** biography sold out days after its release; rather than reprinting the book, Bluewater will add extra pages and a new cover to create an expanded 48-page graphic novel version of the book. "There was a lot of buzz regarding this particular title outside the traditional comic book buying demographic," *Darren G. Davis,* president of Bluewater, said. "Facebook fans and Zuckerberg detractors have sought this title out, so I am hoping we earned a 'Like.'" Look for the expanded version in July.

Coming Comics—DC in July

The war is over... now comes the difficult transition. ***War of the Green Lanterns: Aftermath #1,*** the kickoff issue of a two-part series by *Tony Bedard & Miguel Sepulveda,* focuses on the changes that the war has brought to the lives of Hal Jordan, Guy Gardner, John Stewart and Kyle Rayner. It's a very different world now—but is that a good thing or a bad thing?

Still reeling from the endgame of "War of the Green Lanterns," the Corps must pull itself together in order to resume policing the universe. However, the Green Lanterns discover in ***Green Lantern Corps #62*** that doing so is more difficult than they ever imagined.

With the events of "War of the Green Lanterns" still heavy in his thoughts, Guy Gardner must serve a Corps that is no longer the same in ***Green Lantern: Emerald Warriors #12*** by *Peter Tomasi, Fernando Pasarin, & Cam Smith.* And you know how Guy deals with great change: poorly.

Will The Flash and his new allies be able to fix the world? That's the question that *Geoff Johns, Andy Kubert, & Sandra Hope* explore in ***Flashpoint #3,*** the continuation of the five-part

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

MARTINE BANCROFT FINDS HER FIANCÉ IN DISTRESS...
YOU SAY THE MORNING SUNLIGHT ACTUALLY HURT YOU, MICHAEL?
THE PAIN WAS--EXCRUCIATING!
COULD SPIDER-MAN HAVE BEEN RIGHT?
AM I RETURNING TO MY FORMER VAMPIRE-LIKE STATE?
IT'S NOT TRUE, MY DARLING.
I WON'T LET IT BE TRUE!
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series that presents a radically different DCU.

Will Booster be able to stop Doomsday and help The Flash – or has his time come to an end? Find out in ***Booster Gold #46*** by *Dan Jurgens & Norm Rapmund*, a ***Flashpoint*** tie-in.

Who is The Joker? And what is his dark connection to the Wayne family? Find out in ***Flashpoint: Batman—Knight of Vengeance #2*** by *Brian Azzarello & Eduardo Risso.*

Who killed the first Seven? And can Amethyst stop them from killing the new Secret Seven? That' s the focus of ***Flashpoint: Secret Seven #2*** by *Peter Milligan, George Pérez, & Scott Koblish.*

Will Sinestro side with Abin Sur against the Guardians of Oa, or is all hope lost? *Adam Schlagman & Felipe Massafera* answer that question in ***Flashpoint: Abin Sur—The Green Lantern #2.***

Why is Traci 13 the most important girl in the world? Does she have the strength to do what must be done?

Those questions are at the center of ***Flashpoint: The World of Flashpoint #2*** by *Rex Ogle & Eduardo Francisco.*

How important is Aquaman to the ***Flashpoint*** DCU? Will his loss destroy the world? Find out in ***Flashpoint: Emperor Aquaman #2*** by *Tony Bedard, Ardian Syaf, & Vicente Cifuentes.*

Will Deathstroke be able to find his treasure with Aquaman standing in his way? We'll see when ***Flashpoint: Deathstroke & the Curse of the Ravager #2*** hits the stands courtesy of *Jimmy Palmiotti, Joe Bennett, & John Dell.*

Can our heroes find the cure to their afflictions, or will the monster hunter Miranda Shrieve kill them before they get the chance? That question lies at the core of ***Flashpoint: Frankenstein & the Creatures of the Unknown #2*** by *Jeff Lemire & Ibraim Roberson.*

Will Central City's greatest hero be able to stand against the Rogues? Witness the confrontation in ***Flashpoint: Citizen Cold #2*** by *Scott Kolins.*

How many must die to avenge Queen Hippolyta's death and satiate Diana's fury?

"I KNOW. THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT!"
THAT WATER PIPE! IT-IT'S--
KREEEEK
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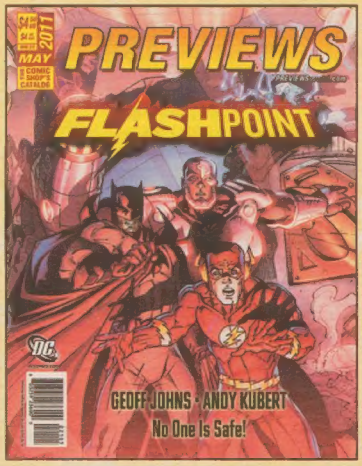
COVER STORY

PREVIEWS
MAY 2011
THE RED WING
THE STORY OF THE GREATEST BATTLE IN THE HISTORY OF THREE WORLDS.
BY JONATHAN HICKMAN, NICK PITARRA & RACHELLE ROSENBERG

THE RED WING #1
IMAGE COMICS
From writer Jonathan Hickman and new art sensation, Nick Pitarra, comes The Red Wing, the story of the greatest battle in the history of the history of three worlds!

FLASHPOINT #3 MINISERIES
DC COMICS
Flashpoint, the world-changing miniseries from Geoff Johns and Andy Kubert, continues... and No One is Safe! The main series follows Barry Allen as he carries on with his investigation into what happened to the world he once knew... And the world of Flashpoint expands with more crossover miniseries bringing a new perspective on the classic DC heroes!



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Learn for yourself in ***Flashpoint: Wonder Woman & The Furies #2*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, Scott Clark, & David Beaty.*

Trapped behind enemy lines, will the Grayson family be able to help the Resistance, or will *J.T. Krul & Alejandro Giraldo* present their final performance in ***Flashpoint: Deadman and the Flying Graysons #2?***

The villains have mounted a prison break! Now, one lone hero stands in the way. Witness Animal Man in action—and learn more about Cyborg—in ***Flashpoint: Legion of Doom #2*** by *Adam Glass, Rodney Buchemi, & Jose Marzan, Jr.*

Lois Lane meets the mysterious leader of the Resistance in ***Flashpoint: Lois Lane & the Resistance #2*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Eddie Nunez.*

In a world where everyone hates The Outsider, who wants him dead? Will the ruler of Kahndaq have what it takes to finish the job? *James Robinson & Javi Fernandez* reveal the answer in ***Flashpoint: The Outsider #2.***

Where is he? And *when*? Can Hot Pursuit save Bart in time for him to help Barry? The answers can be found in ***Flashpoint: Kid Flash Lost #2*** by *Sterling Gates & Oliver Nome.*

Who is behind Project Superman? *Scott Snyder & Lowell Francis* reveal the mastermind(s) in ***Flashpoint: Project Superman #2.***

Will he be able to fly fast enough to escape his fate and defeat the Amazons? *Adam Schlagman & Ben Oliver* tell all in ***Flashpoint: Hal Jordan #2.***

DC kicks off a three-month decades retrospective in ***DC RetroActive.*** July's offerings take a look at that underappreciated decade, the 1970s, with:

- ***DC RetroActive: Superman—The 70's #1*** (by *Martin Pasko & Eduardo Barretto*): Mr. Mxyzptlk returns for another go at The Man of Steel. Will he succeed this time around?
- ***DC RetroActive: Batman—The 70s #1*** (written by *Len Wein*), featuring a never-before-revealed tale from Batman's transitional era.
- ***DC RetroActive: Wonder Woman—The 70s #1*** (written by *Dennis O'Neil*), presenting a classic Amazon Princess tale set during her "white jumpsuit" phase.
- ***DC RetroActive: Green Lantern—The 70s #1*** (by *Dennis O'Neil & Mike Grell*), presenting a Hal Jordan adventure set in the era when no one had heard from Parallax or the Anti-Monitor.
- ***DC RetroActive: The Flash—The 70s #1*** (written by *Cary Bates*), in which Gorilla Grodd finds a way to doom the Scarlet Speedster to a slow and agonizing fate.
- ***DC RetroActive: Justice League of America—The 70s #1*** (written by *Cary Bates*), featuring an untold tale of super villain Kanjar Ro and his efforts to conquer Earth- Prime.

Each 26-page lead story is accompanied by classic 1970s reprints featuring tales penned by the featured writer.

The mastermind behind "Reign of Doomsday" begins the final phase of his plan to destroy Superman and all mankind in ***Action Comics #903*** by *Paul Cornell & Kenneth Rocafort.* Steel, Supergirl, Superboy and the heroes of Earth unite to try to stop the devastation, while Superman undertakes a dangerous journey in a desperate attempt to save the day.

In ***Batman & Robin #25,*** *Judd Winick & Greg Tocchini* present the crashing finish to the brief alliance of Batman, Robin and Jason Todd, a.k.a. The Red Hood, against a common foe. After all, the three "sons of Wayne" can put their differences aside for just so long.

DC moves to get ***Batman: The Dark Knight*** back on schedule by bringing in guest artist *Jay Fabok* to join writer *David Finch* for the fourth issue, which continues the Etrigan storyline.

Is an exclusive girls' finishing school a secret training ground for teenaged assassins? Find out the truth as Batman sends Batgirl on her most dangerous mission yet in ***Batman Incorporated #9*** by *Grant Morrison & Cameron Stewart.*

The original Phantom Lady returns to Gotham City for a mini-reunion with Lady Blackhawk in ***Birds of Prey #14,*** a special issue by the guest team of *Marc Andreyko & Billy Tucci.*

Who has been cursed to find the Swamp Thing – and can Superman and the other heroes stop him? That's the central question of ***Brightest Day Aftermath: The Search for Swamp Thing #2*** by *Jonathan Vankin & Marco Castiello.*

In ***DC Universe: Online Legends #s 11 & 12,*** Luthor unveils his next move in the elaborate game he's playing against Superman and Brainiac. Meanwhile Batman begins connecting Luthor, Brainiac, the Exobytes and the survivors from The Daily Planet. But will he be in time to help
Superman's worsening condition?

For years, Jim Gordon has been tormented by the possibility that his son, James Jr., might be a killer. In *Scott Snyder & Jock's* ***Detective Comics #s 879,*** he'll get the answers he's been after. But is the truth about James even darker than the Commissioner, or even Batman, could have guessed? Then, in #880, the Joker is on the loose in the catacombs beneath Gotham City, more vicious and frightening than ever. But even as Batman closes in on The Clown Prince of Crime, he begins to suspect that the city may be the target of an even deadlier threat.

Guest artist *Jeff Lemire* joins writers *Justin Gray & Jimmy Palmiotti* for ***Jonah Hex #69,*** which find him forced to confront the only opponent on Earth who can potentially ruin that streak: his own father!

The JSA join forces with the Challengers of Unknown to venture into Monument Point's depths in ***Justice Society of America #53*** by *Marc Guggenheim & Tom Derenick.*

More than two decades in the making *Marv Wolfman & George Pérez's* ***The New Teen Titans: Games HC*** is completed at last! This blast-

from-the-past 144-page tale (advance solicited for September release) features a mysterious villain playing a deadly game with New York City as the gameboard – and the classic wolfman-Perez Teen Titans as the pieces!

If he's going to avoid a fight against a psycho Super-Villain, end the 7 Days of Death, win the Assassination Tournament and discover ancient knowledge over life and death, Red Robin will have to survive a final battle against one of the world's deadliest assassins... Cassandra Cain. Witness the conflict in ***Red Robin #25*** by *Fabian Nicieza & Marcus To.*

What could possibly make The Man of Steel decide to stop being Superman? Superboy and Supergirl catch up with him in Portland, Oregon, and they want answers—and they'll find 'em in ***Superman #713*** by *J. Michael Straczynski, Chris Roberson, Eddy Barrows, & J.P. Mayer.*

Joshua Hale Fialkov & Tomas Giorello present a new tales of the early days of the Superman/Batman partnership in ***Superman/Batman #86.***

The twelve-part "Odyssey" expands to fourteen parts, with the penultimate chapter slated for ***Wonder Woman #613*** to encompass *J. Michael Straczynski* and *Phil Hester's* full story that pits classic Wonder Woman against the new one. Even if she wins, she loses!

Death finally claims one of the agents in ***T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents #9,*** written by *Nick Spencer* with art by *Cafu, Bit, Mike Grell, & Nick Dragotta.*

"The Methuselah Imperative" begins in *Eric Wallace & Cliff Richards'* ***Titans Annual 2011,*** continuing into the August issue of ***Titans!*** It's all been building toward this – a giant throwdown between Deathstroke and his Titans and The Justice League!

Superboy Prime returns to threaten the team in ***Teen Titans #98*** by *J.T. Krul, Eduardo Pansica, & Eber Ferreira...* and he's not alone...

The long-simmering rivalry between Zatanna and The Spectre ignites in *Paul Dini & Jamal Igle's* ***Zatanna #15.***

DC collected editions (solicited for July, August, & September release) include:

- ***Absolute All- Star Superman (New Printing),*** a reissue of the deluxe hardcover collecting the *Grant Morrison-Frank Quitely* twelve-parter.
- ***Absolute Batman: Hush HC (New Printing),*** a new edition of the deluxe hardcover collecting the twelve-parter by *Jeph Loeb, Jim Lee, & Scott Williams.*
- ***Absolute Kingdom Come HC (New Printing),*** a new edition of the deluxe hardcover collecting the best-selling Elseworlds saga by *Mark Waid & Alex Ross.*
- ***Batman: Impostors TP,*** collecting ***Detective #s 867-871.***
- ***Batman: Mad Love and Other Stories TP,*** collecting the origin of Harley Quinn and other tales.
- ***Batman: Under the Red Hood TP,*** collecting ***Batman #s 635-641 & 645-650*** and ***Annual #25.***
- ***Billy Batson & the Magic of Shazam!: Back in Black TP,*** collecting ***Billy Batson #s 13-18.***
- ***Brightest Day Volume 3 HC,*** collecting ***Brightest Day #s 17-24.***
- ***DC Comics Presents Batman—Gotham Noir #1,*** featuring a noirish Elseworlds tale by *Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips,* and more.
- ***DC Comics Presents Metal Men #1,*** collecting the backup tales from ***Doom Patrol #s 1-7*** and more.
- ***DC Comics Presents Shazam! #1,*** collecting the "Monster Society of Evil" saga from ***The Power of Shazam! #s 38-41.***
- ***DC Comics Presents Superman #4,*** collecting ***Action #s 768 & 771-773.***
- ***Deux Ex TP,*** collecting the six-part miniseries.
- ***Doom Patrol: Fire Away TP,*** collecting ***Doom Patrol #s 14-21.***
- ***Green Lantern Corps: The Weaponer HC,*** collecting ***Green Lantern Corps #s 53-57.***
- ***Hitman Volume 56: Who Dares Wins TP,*** collecting ***Hitman #s 23-28.***
- ***Justice League of America: Omega HC,*** collecting ***Justice League #s 49-53*** and ***Starman/Congorilla #1.***
- ***Kamandi: The Last Boy On Earth Omnibus Volume 1 HC,*** collecting the first twenty issues of *Jack Kirby's* classic post-apocalyptic saga in the Omnibus format.
- ***Legion of Superheroes 2: Consequences HC,*** collecting ***Legion #s 7-10, Adventure #s 521-522, & Annual #1.***
- ***Mad Magazine Harry Potter Special,*** collecting ***Mad Magazine's*** best Harry Potter parodies.
- ***Resident Evil TP,*** collecting the six-part miniseries.
- ***Supergirl: Bizarrogirl TP,*** collecting ***Supergirl #s 53-59 & Annual #2.***
- ***Superman: The Black Ring Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Action #s 896-900*** and more.
- ***Superman/ Batman: Night & Day TP,*** collecting ***Superman/Batman #s 60-63 & 65-67.***
- ***Superman's Girl Friend Lois Lane Archives Volume 1 HC,*** collecting ***Showcase #s 9-10*** and ***Lois Lane #s 1-8.***

THAT BUSTED WATER PIPE SURE RUINED OUR REHEARSAL.
THAT'S THE LEAST OF OUR WORRIES, MJ.
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THE PRODUCER SAYS WE'LL HAVE TO CANCEL TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE.
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO "THE SHOW MUST GO ON"?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-20

•***Team-Ups of the Brave and the Bold TP,*** collecting *J. Michael Straczynski's* ***Brave and & Bold #s 27-33.***
•***Watchmen: The Absolute Edition HC (New Printing),*** a reissue of the deluxe slipcased hardcover collecting the *Alan Moore-Dave Gibbons* classic.
•***World of Warcraft Book 4 TP,*** collecting ***Worlds of Warcraft #s 22-25*** and the ***WoW Special.***
•***World of Warcraft: Curse of the Worgen HC,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in July

99 Days HC, *Matteo Casali & Kristian Donaldson's* graphic novel that focuses on a detective for the LAPD who is haunted by his experiences as a young Hutu in Rwanda, is now rescheduled for August release.

Is the America about to emerge from its second civil war going to be the same America that went into it? Will it be even remotely similar? Find out in *Brian Wood & Riccardo Burchielli's* five-part "The Five Nations of New York," the final arc in the *DMZ* saga that begins in ***DMZ #67.***

Brian Wood & Paul Azaceta off their next big story arc, "The Icelandic Trilogy," in ***Northlanders #42,*** taking on the history of the mythic island nation, starting with its settlement in 874 and ending with civil war in 1262.

Armed with his father's journals, Tom Taylor begins a journey across the United States in *Mike Carey & Peter Gross's* ***Unwritten #27***—a journey that also takes him into the past, to the Golden Age of a new artistic medium and the birth of a new type of hero.

Vertigo collected editions include:
•***A History of Violence TP (New Edition),*** reissue of the *John Wagner-Vince Locke* graphic novel that inspired the Academy Award-nominated 2005 film.
•***Fogtown TP,*** a softcover edition of the graphic novel by *Andersen Gabrych & Brad Rader.*
•***Dark Rain: A New Orleans Story TP,*** a softcover edition of the graphic novel by *Mat Johnson & Simon Gane.*
•***Joe the Barbarian Deluxe Edition HC,*** collecting the eight-parter by *Grant Morrison & Sean Murphy.*
•***Madame Xanadu Volume 4: Extra Sensory TP,*** collecting ***Madame Xanadu #s 24-29.***
•***Transmetropolitan Volume 10: One More Time TP (New Edition),*** collecting ***Transmet #s 55-60, I Hate It Here,*** and ***Filth of the City.***
•***The Sandman Volume 6: Fables & Reflections TP (New Edition),*** collecting ***Sandman #s 29-31 & Special #1.***

Coming in December from DC Direct

Patrick Gleason's art is the inspiration for *Phil Ramirez's* sculpt of the ***Batman Black and White Statue: Batman by Patrick Gleason.***

Selina Kyle gets the super-deluxe treatment with the release of the ***Catwoman 1:4 Scale Museum Quality Statue,*** a museum-quality mixed-media statue sculpted by *Karen Palinko* that features resin elements and a fabric costume.

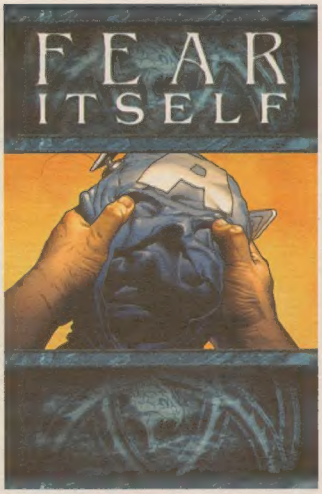
Jim Shoop takes *Ivan Reis's* art into the third dimension with the ***Heroes of the DC Universe Blackest Night: White Lantern Sinestro Bust,*** depicting Sinestro atop a special base that displays the spectrum of lantern symbols.

DC Direct's 1:4 scale power battery and light-up ring sets continue with the ***Blackest Night: White Lantern 1:4 Scale Power Battery & Ring Prop Replica Set.*** The White Lantern 1:4 Scale Power Battery and the White Power Ring sit in a translucent display, are removable from the stand, and both light up.

By popular demand, DC is reissuing the nine-ring ***Blackest Night Power Ring Spectrum Set*** for holiday gift-giving. Each of these nine wearable, adjustable plastic rings (one each in red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet, plus black and white) lights up using the special key included with the set. (The batteries can also be changed).

The ***Green Lantern Series 5 Action Figures*** include 6.75" articulated figures of ***Soranik Natu, Brother Warth, Guy Gardner,*** and ***Sinestro.***

DC Direct's ***Starcraft Premium Series 2 Action Figures*** offer a pair of figures: ***Tychus Findlay*** and ***Kerrigan, Queen of Blades.***

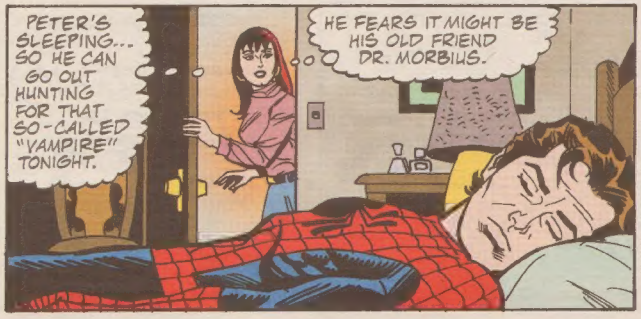


Coming Comics—Marvel in July

In *Matt Fraction & Stuart Immonen's* ***Fear Itself #4,*** Thor finds himself unwelcome in two homes; Steve Rogers makes the decision of a lifetime; and Iron Man prepares to make the ultimate sacrifice. Every move the heroes make just serves to make The Serpent stronger-- and the feat he accomplishes in this issue will rock the Avengers.

Marvel's July ***Fear Itself*** tie-ins include:
•***Alpha Flight #2*** (*Fred Van Lente, Greg Pak, & Dale Eaglesham*) - Alpha Flight faces accusations of treason.
•***Avengers #15*** (*Brian Bendis & Chris Bachalo*)- the Avengers and the New Avengers join forces to confront the menace of the Serpent and his minions.
•***Avengers Academy #16*** (*Christos Gage & Tom Raney*), - a student is pushed ever further towards a life-changing decision.
•***Black Panther: The Man Without Fear #521*** (*David Liss & Francesco Francavilla*) - featuring the debut of the American Panther.
•***Fear Itself: Deadpool #2*** (*Christopher Hastings & Bong Dazo*) - Deadpool tries to find a way to cash in on the terror caused by ***Fear Itself.***
•***Fear Itself: The Deep #2*** (*Cullen Bunn & Lee Garbett*) - Sub-Mariner, Dr. Strange, Silver Surfer, She-Hulk, and Loa confront the sinister forces that have claimed New Atlantis.
•***Fear Itself: FF #1*** (*Cullen Bunn & Tom Grummett*) - a member of the team finds himself seduced by the malevolence of the Serpent.
•***Fear Itself: Fearsome Four #2*** (*Brandon Montclare, Ryan Bodenheim, & Simon Bisley*) - featuring the transformed Fearsome Four, who have become terrible things as a result of their own terror and the reality-warping powers of a fear-drunk Man-Thing.
•***Fear Itself: The Home Front #4*** (*Christos Gage, Peter Milligan, Howard Chaykin, & others*) - continuing the ***Fear Itself*** exploits of Speedball, Jimmy Woo, and the Blue Marvel.
•***Fear Itself: Spider-Man #3*** (*Christopher Yost & Mike McKone*) - Spider-Man comes face to face with a friend under the Serpent's grip... a friend with every intention of killing Spider-Man with a *very* big hammer.
•***Fear Itself: Uncanny X-Force #1*** (*Rob Williams & Simone Bianchi*) - the X-Force confront a mutant hate group known as the Purifiers.
•***Fear Itself: Wolverine #1*** (*Seth Peck & Roland Boschi*) - Wolverine and Melita take on the black ops group STRIKE.
•***Fear Itself: The Worthy #1*** (*Greg Pak, Christos Gage, Tom DeFalco, Lee Weeks, Clayton Henry, Javier Pulido, & others*) - a living history that bring s readers up to speed on the origins of the Hammer Wielders.
•***Fear Itself: Youth in Revolt #3*** (Sean McKeever & Mike Norton) - Hardball and his Heavy Hitters stand as Las Vegas's only hope...
•***Herc #5*** (*Fred Van Lente, Greg Pak, & Neil Edwards*) - featuring Herc and his myth-villain allies united to save his new home of Brooklyn.
•***Heroes for Hire #9*** (*Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Kyle Hotz*) - Misty Knight recruits some very unlikely agents in order to keep the city together.

•***Hulk #37*** (*Jeff Parker & Elena Casagrande*) - Red Hulk confronts against a Worthy Adversary who is as powerful as he is... if not more so!
•***Invincible Iron Man #506*** (*Matt Fraction & Salvador Larroca*), - Tony Stark is forced to face with his greatest fear.
•***Iron Man 2.0 #7*** (*Nick Spencer & Ariel Olivetti*) - War Machine and the Immortal Iron Fist finally live up to their mysterious destiny.
•***Journey Into Mystery #625*** (*Kieron Gillen & Doug Braithwaite*) - Loki's search for allies against the Serpent going somewhat awry.


PETER'S SLEEPING... SO HE CAN GO OUT HUNTING FOR THAT SO-CALLED "VAMPIRE" TONIGHT.
HE FEARS IT MIGHT BE HIS OLD FRIEND DR. MORBIUS.
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•***New Avengers #14*** (*Brian Bendis & Mike Deodato*), which finds the Avengers and the New Avengers joining forces to confront the madness of ***Fear Itself.***

•***Secret Avengers #15*** (*Nick Spencer & Scot Eaton*), which follows Black Widow as she undertakes the most dangerous suicide mission of all -- eliminating the evil mastermind behind ***Fear Itself!***

•***Thunderbolts #160*** (*Jeff Parker & Declan Shalvey*) - one of Marvel's most dangerous villains becomes one of the Worthy.

•***Uncanny X-Men #s 540 & 541*** (*Kieron Gillen & Greg Land*) - the horrors of the Serpent come to San Francisco.

As Spider-Man, he's a member of the FF and *two* different Avengers teams. As Peter Parker, he works all hours on his dream job at Horizon Labs. That doesn't leave him with much time for anything or anyone else. And he pays the price in ***Amazing Spider-Man #665***, as one of Peter's greatest sins comes back to haunt him.

Then *Dan Slott & Stefano Caselli* start handing out spider-powers to huge numbers of people in "Spider-Island: Prelude," which kicks off in ***Amazing Spider-Man #666.***

Marvel presents an insider's look into the making of its cinematic universe — assembling three Avengers in one stylish slipcase in the four-volume ***Art of Marvel Studios HC Slipcased Edition,*** featuring ***Iron Man: The Art of Iron Man; Iron Man: The Art of Iron Man 2: Thor: The Art of Thor;*** and ***Captain America: The Art of Captain America.***

Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley launch their first creator-owned project this summer with the debut of ***Brilliant,*** the story of a handful of college-age geniuses who challenge each other to solve the mystery of superpowers. Can the best and brightest change science fiction into science fact? And if so, how will the world at large react?

With new enemies, new friends...and that same old "grinnin' in the face of hell" attitude, The Man Without Fear is back in ***Daredevil #1,*** a double-sized first issue by *Mark Waid, Paulo Manuel Rivera, & Marcos Martin.* Having turned his world upside over the past several years, Matt Murdock realizes that justice may not be blind to his past and villains may not be the only ones looking for answers.

After the fallout (nuclear and otherwise) of Deadpool's antics out in Arizona, the federal government is faced with an impossible question: What to do with Deadpool? Luckily, Deadpool's gamma-powered legal defense team provides an answer: Stick him in an institution! And that's just what they do in ***Deadpool #40*** by *Daniel Way & Carlo Barberi.*

Hydra. A secret organization dedicated to terror and world domination. Their very name strikes fear into the heart of...only one man. Deadpool. Because Hydra is not real—it's a fiction, created by Bob to keep the world's most dangerous man in check. But now Bob has been replaced... so what's a desperate C.I.A. black ops operative to do to regain control of his agent? Well, perhaps teaming with the Taskmaster to turn Hydra from a dream into reality will help things out considerably. We'll find out in ***Deadpool Max #10*** by *David Lapham & Kyle Baker.*

Marvel presents a previously-unseen Defenders tale by *Fabian Nicieza, Kurt Busiek, & Mark Bagley* in ***Defenders: From the Marvel Vault #1.***

Marvel presents some of *Roger Langridge's* acclaimed Muppets tales in ***Disney•Muppet Presents Meet the Muppets.***

Rob Williams & Matthew Clark relaunch the exploits of the Spirit of Vengeance in ***Ghost Rider #1.*** Witness the violent birth of the all-new Ghost Rider...come to cleanse the earth in a firestorm of Blood, Oil, and Vengeance! Johnny Blaze has been chained to Hell long enough. With the world thrown into chaos in the events of ***Fear Itself,*** he is given a chance to rid himself of the Spirit of Vengeance forever...and he takes it. The curse is passed onto a new host—but Blaze has no idea what nightmares his action has wrought upon the world.

"Planet Hulk" and "World War Hulk" writer *Greg Pak* ends his legendary ***Incredible Hulk*** run with his most explosive, unpredictable and revelation-packed story to date in ***Incredible Hulks #s 632 & 633.***

Witness the chilling creation of Marvel's greatest monster, and liberty's greatest enemy, in the five-part ***Red Skull*** by *Greg Pak & Mirko Colak.*

Secret Warriors comes to an end with #28.. but what will happen to Nick Fury? Who lives? Who dies? What is the stunning new direction for the remnants of S.H.I.E.L.D. in the Marvel Universe? It's all in here!

Learn all about what's in store for readers in the "Spider-Island" saga in ***Spider-Island Spotlight,*** featuring interviews, behind-the-scenes article, and more.

CAPTAIN AMERICA 1

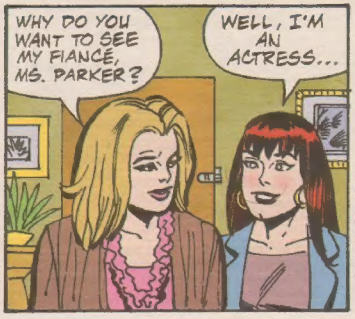
Steve Rogers is back in his iconic red, white, and blue costume in *Ed Brubaker & Steve McNiven's* ***Captain America #1.*** A funeral for a fallen friend turns into a race against time as the original Captain America makes his explosive return!

The former ***Captain America*** series continues under its new title of ***Captain America & Bucky.*** In #620, *Ed Brubaker, Marc Andreyko, & Chris Samnee* present a secret story of the early days of Captain America, told from Bucky's point of view.

Fred Van Lente & Ron Lim present new tales of Thor, Cap, and all your favorite characters from this summer's blockbuster films in ***Cap and Thor! Avengers.***

Paul Jenkins & Ariel Olivetti bring together Thor, Loki, and Armageddon in ***Thor: Heaven & Earth,*** a four-part series.

The battle between the Ultimate Universe's most powerful super hero groups comes to a close in *Mark Millar & Leinil Francis Yu's* ***Ultimate Comics Avengers Vs. New Ultimates***


WHY DO YOU WANT TO SEE MY FIANCÉ, MS. PARKER?
WELL, I'M AN ACTRESS...
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I'M APPEARING IN A NEW REVIVAL OF "DRACULA."
I HEARD DR. MORBIUS HAS STUDIED VAMPIRE BATS...
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#6... but who will be left standing?

Spider-Man is dead... but the ramifications of his demise continue to affect the Ultimate Universe in the six-part ***Ultimate Fallout #s 1-3***, the first half of a six-part series by *Brian Bendis, Jonathan Hickman, Nick Spencer, Mark Bagley, Sara Pichelli*, and others.

When Magneto of the X-Men tries to rescue a young mutant on the run, he accidently kicks off a series of events that will shake the very Marvel Universe to its core in *Joe Casey & Nick Dragotta's* ***Vengeance #1***, which also introduces the new Teen Brigade.

Can the new Venom and Peter Parker put aside their differences to help save a man from himself? Find out in *Rick Remender & Tony Moore's* ***Venom #5***, a "Spider-Island" prelude tale.

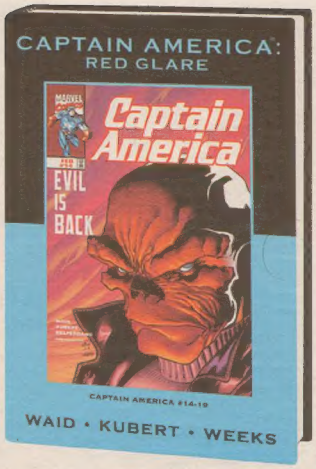
Jimmy Palmiotti & Joseph Michael Linsner return to right where their classic "Claws" storyline left off with ***Wolverine & Black Cat: Claws 2***, a three-part series. Wolverine and Black Cat have barely had time to catch their breath from defeating the villainous mastermind Arcade and his sidekick White Rabbit when the two evil schemers find an escape from their exile in The Savage Land, and an entryway into revenge!

Wolverine. Deadpool. A fifteen-foot killer robot. That's all you know about ***Wolverine & Deadpool: Decoy***, and all ye need know...

The mutant universe is splitting in two—and you can get in on the ground floor with ***X-Men: Schism #s 1 & 2*** by *Jason Aaron, Carlos Pacheco, & Frank Cho*. And by the time this ends in October, the X-Men landscape will be irreparably changed.

Marvel collected volumes include:

- ***Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter: Circus of the Damned Book 2—The Ingenue Premiere HC***, collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***Astonishing Spider-Man & Wolverine Premiere HC***, collecting the six-issue limited series.
- ***Avengers by Brian Bendis Volume 1 TP***, collecting ***Avengers #s 1-6***.
- ***Avengers by Brian Michael Bendis Volume 2 Premiere HC***, collecting ***Avengers #s 7-12 & 12.1***.
- ***Avengers Academy Volume 1: Permanent Record TP***, collecting ***Avengers Academy #s 1-6*** and more.
- ***Avengers Academy Volume 2: Will We Use This in the Real World? Premiere HC***, collecting ***Avengers Academy #s 7-14***.
- ***Black Panther: The Man Without Fear Volume 1—Urban Jungle TP***, collecting ***Black Panther: Man Without Fear #s 513-518*** and more.
- ***Black Widow: Kiss or Kill TP***, collecting ***Black Widow #s 6-8*** and more.
- ***Captain America: Hail HYDRA TP***, collecting the five-part miniseries.



- ***Captain America: Red Glare Premiere HC***, collecting ***Captain America (1998) #s 14-19***.
- ***Casanova: Gula TP***, collecting ***Casanova: Gula #s 1-4***.
- ***Daken/X23: Collision Premiere HC***, collecting ***Daken #s 5-9, X-23 #s 7-9***, and more.
- ***Deadpool Volume 6: I Rule, You Suck TP***, collecting ***Deadpool #s 27-31***.
- ***Deadpool Pulp TP***, collecting the four-part miniseries.
- ***Essential Peter Parker, The Spectacular Spider-Man Volume 5 TP***, collecting ***Peter Parker #s 97-114***.
- ***Excalibur Visionaries: Alan Davis Volume 3 TP***, collecting ***Excalibur #s 59-67***.
- ***Fantastic Four: 1234 Premiere HC***, collecting the miniseries by *Grant Morrison & Jae Lee*.
- ***Hawkeye: Blindspot TP***, collecting the four-part miniseries and ***Earth's Mightiest Marksman***.
- ***Heroes for Hire: Control TP***, collecting ***Heroes for Hire #s 1-5*** and more.
- ***Incredible Hulks: Planet Savage TP***, collecting ***Incredible Hulks $s 623-629***.
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Atlas Era Strange Tales Volume 5 HC***, collecting ***Strange Tales #s 40-48***, featuring work by *Steve Ditko, Bill Everett, Joe Maneely, Stan Lee*, and others.
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Incredible Hulk Volume 6 HC***, collecting ***Incredible Hulk #s 122-134***.
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The X-Men Volume 3 TP***, collecting ***X-Men #s 22-31***.
- ***Marvel Point One TP***, collecting the eleven "Point One Initiative" issues of various Marvel titles.
- ***Millar & McNiven's Nemesis TP***, collecting the four-parter.
- ***New Avengers by Brian Bendis Volume 1 TP***, collecting ***New Avengers #s 1-6***.
- ***New Mutants Classic Volume 6 TP***, collecting ***New Mutants #s 41-47 & Annual #2*** and ***X-Men Annual #10***.
- ***New X-Men by Grant Morrison Book 3 TP***, collecting ***New X-Men #s 122-126***.
- ***Onslaught Unleashed HC***, collecting the four-part miniseries.
- ***Orson Scott Card's Speaker for the Dead Premiere HC***, collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***Oz: The Marvelous Land of Oz TP***, collecting the eight-part limited series.
- ***Secret Avengers Volume One: Mission to Mars TP***, collecting ***Secret Avengers #s 1-5***.
- ***Spider-Man: Am I An Avnegers? TP***, collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man Annual #3, Avengers #s 236-237, 314-318, & 329, Amazing Spider-Man #348, New Avengers #3***, and ***Avengers #1***.
- ***Spider-Man: Big Time TP***, collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 648-651***.
- ***Spider-Man: Blue TP***, collecting the acclaimed *Jeph Loeb-Tim Sale* miniseries.
- ***Spider-Man: The Complete Ben Reilly Epic Book 1 TP***, collecting 424 pages of Ben Reilly tales from the mid-1990s.
- ***Spider-Man/Fantastic Four TP***, collecting the four-part miniseries along with two classic crossover tales.
- ***Spider-Man: Origin of the Species TP***, collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 642-647, Spider-Man Saga***, and more.
- ***The Stand: No Man's Land Premiere HC***, collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***Steve Roger: Super-Soldier TP***, collecting ***Steve Rogers #s 1-4*** and more.
- ***Thor: Black Galaxy Saga TP***, collecting ***Thor #s 419-425***.
- ***Thor: Spiral TP***, collecting ***Thor #s 59-67*** and more.
- ***Thunderbolts: Violent Rejection TP***, collecting ***Thunderbolts #s 152-157***.
- ***Venom: Flashpoint***, collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #654, 654.1***, and ***Venom #1***.
- ***Wolverine by Jason Aaron Omnibus Volume 1 HC***, featuring 688 pages of Aaron-written Wolverine tales.
- ***Wolverine: The Best There Is—Contagion Premiere HC***, collecting ***Wolverine: The Best There Is #s 1-6***.
- ***Wolverine: Wolverine Vs. The X-Men Premiere HC***, collecting ***Wolverine #s 5.1 & 6-9***.
- ***X-Factor: Scar Tissue Premiere HC***, collecting ***X-Factor #s 213-219***.
- ***X-Men by Chris Claremont & Jim Lee Omnibus Volume 1 HC***, collecting ***Uncanny X-Men #s 244-269, Annual #13, & Classic X-Men #39***.
- ***X-Men Legacy: Aftermath Premiere HC***, collecting ***X-Men Legacy #s 242-244, 248-249***, and more.
- ***X-Men/Steve Rogers: Escape from the Negative Zone HC***, reprinting the story from this spring's ***Uncanny X-Men Annual #3, Steve Rogers: Super-Soldier Annual #1***, and ***Namor Annual #1***.
- ***X-Men: X-Cutioner's Song HC***, collecting ***Uncanny X-Men #s 294-297, X-Factor #s 84-86, X-Men #s 14-16, X-Force #s 16-18***, and more.

The World of a Wayward Comic Book Artist

The Private Sketchbooks of S. Plunkett

Foreword by Michael Wm Kaluta

"There's never been a person, self-proclaimed artist or otherwise, whose reaction to seeing their first Sandy Plunkett art wasn't 'Oh my!Where can I see more?'"—Michael Wm Kaluta

"There's a timeless quality to his work that never fails to give me a little jolt of envy and inspiration. I love his compositions. . . . I'm thrilled to finally have a large collection of his drawings together under one cover."—Kevin Nowlan

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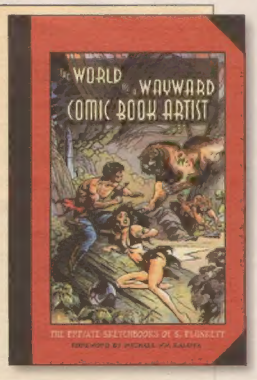

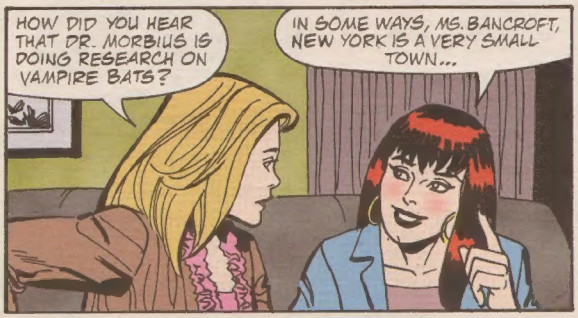
HOW DID YOU HEAR THAT DR. MORBIUS IS DOING RESEARCH ON VAMPIRE BATS?
IN SOME WAYS, MS. BANCROFT, NEW YORK IS A VERY SMALL TOWN...
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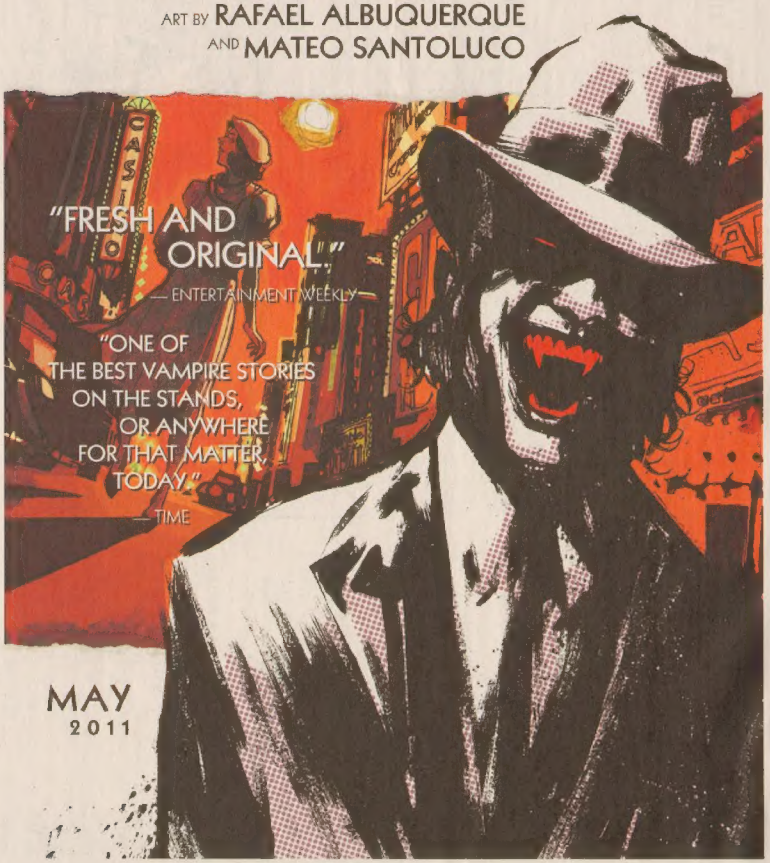
Follow Spider-Man every week in Comic Shop News!

THE SECOND HARDCOVER GRAPHIC NOVEL COLLECTION OF THE ACCLAIMED SERIES

AMERICAN VAMPIRE

WRITTEN BY SCOTT SNYDER
ART BY RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE
AND MATEO SANTOLUCO


CASINO
"FRESH AND ORIGINAL."
— ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY —
"ONE OF THE BEST VAMPIRE STORIES ON THE STANDS, OR ANYWHERE FOR THAT MATTER, TODAY."
— TIME

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